

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 971

By Maddox

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Betty Rasberry upon receiving the Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award for 2008 and for her meritorious service to the children of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Betty Rasberry is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; she has devoted her entire career to improving the lives of children and their families; and

WHEREAS, for her noble dedication and significant contributions to the cause of child advocacy, Mrs. Rasberry received the prestigious Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award for 2008, becoming the first person from West Tennessee to receive this honor; and

WHEREAS, in 1951, Mrs. Rasberry began her tenure in public service as a classroom teacher, first at Newbern Elementary School and later at Mayfield Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, from 1960 until 1964, she rendered sterling service as a Day Care Consultant and Licensing Officer for the Tennessee Department of Human Services (DHS); in this capacity she supervised and facilitated the meeting of state licensing standards for pre-school day care programs and developed and conducted seminars and workshops on pre-school education; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rasberry served as the Staff Development and Training Officer for DHS from 1967 until 1973, supervising about twenty trainers and staff across the state in four training centers; she was administratively responsible for the development and implementation of on-the-job training of department employees at all levels and classifications; and

WHEREAS, Betty Rasberry served with acumen and alacrity as Director of the Bachelor of Science in Social Work (BSSN) Degree Program at the University of Tennessee at Martin from 1973, when she established the BSSW degree, until her retirement from that position in 1990; and

WHEREAS, throughout her illustrious career, Betty Rasberry has also served as a Training and Technical Assistance Consultant to the Bureau of Education and Research Services' Center of Excellence, a medical social work consultant, and a private clinical practitioner; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards or accolades, Mrs. Rasberry was the proud recipient of the 2002 Northwest Council on Children and Youth Child Advocate of the Year Award; in addition, she has published several articles, manuals, and books and lent her professional expertise as a workshop trainer; and

WHEREAS, exhibiting great dedication to the cause of bettering the lives of children, Mrs. Rasberry has contributed her talents to numerous professional organizations, including holding membership on the Northwest Council on Children and Youth and service as State President of both the Tennessee Council on Social Welfare and the Tennessee Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers; and

WHEREAS, she also imparts her energies to a variety of causes closest to her heart, including the Weakley County Literacy Program, Weakley County DHS Child Abuse Review Team, NW Interagency Early Intervention Program, and Northwest Council on Children and Youth; in addition, she has served as a board member for two area children group homes, as advisory committee member for the Head Start Nutrition Program, and as past President and member of the Weakley County Council on Community Services; and

WHEREAS, Betty Rasberry epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, Mrs. Rasberry is deeply devoted to her family and is the proud mother of Janie Rasberry Yandell and Joseph Rasberry; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Betty Rasberry for her dedication to the state of Tennessee and its children; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Betty Rasberry upon receiving the Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award for 2008, offer our gratitude on behalf of her many significant and meritorious contributions to the health and welfare of the children of this fine State, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.